

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

12 November 2004

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information as to its strategic or tactical impact on the US Army and should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available from the [Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center](#). The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

To subscribe, send an email to: HIO-ON@pasba2.amedd.army.mil

To unsubscribe, send an email to: HIO-OFF@pasba2.amedd.army.mil

This report is also available on the [USACHPPM website](#).

HOT TOPICS.....	2
Magnetic System Navigates Difficult Blood Vessels	2
Mouse Study Sheds Light on Nicotine's Addictive Power	2
New Bacteria Threaten Public Health	3
One Shot Eases Pain after Surgery	3
Pollution Link to Heart Disease	3
Red, Processed Meats Increase Diabetes Risk	3
Syndrome Predicts Heart Disease in Healthy Adults	4
WHO Sends Malaria Drug Warning	4
Focus on Epidemiology	4
Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage in the US, 2003	4
USCENTCOM	5
Kyrgyzstan: Hepatitis A Outbreak in Bishkek and Osh	5
USEUCOM	5
Cambridge Students Hit by Mumps Outbreak.....	5
Cholera Kills 1,663 in Africa So Far This Year	5
GPs Run Short Of Flu Shots	5
Ireland First Homegrown Case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	6
Mumps Outbreak Hits Three Colleges	6
Namibia: Meningitis Outbreak in Kavango, Ohangwena.....	6
Namibia-Zambia: Efforts to Contain Locust Outbreak Ineffective	6
Netherlands: Feed Contaminated with Dioxin	6
'Staggering' Death Rates in Uganda Camps.....	7
Uganda: Cholera Overwhelms Kilembe Hospital	7
Uganda Battles Deadly Anthrax Outbreak	7
USNORTHCOM	7
Avian Cholera Outbreak Kills Thousands of Birds on Great Salt Lake	7
Canadian Officials Purchase 145,000 Extra Flu Shots	8
Class Action Suit Filed Against Caesars Entertainment for Norovirus Outbreak	8
Doctor Accused of Giving Expired Flu Shots	8

Flu Remedy Sales Watched to Spot Outbreaks.....	8
HHS to Spend \$877 Million on New Anthrax Vaccine.....	9
No Link Found Yet in Outbreak of Illness.....	9
North Carolina <i>E. coli</i> Outbreak Grows	9
USDA Funds Avian Flu Vaccine Bank for Poultry	9
US Health Report Card Offers Mixed Grades	10
Virus Outbreak Sickens 140 in Calgary Shelter	10
Wisconsin Drops Flu Shot Purchase.....	10

USPACOM 10

26 Children Die, 227 Hospitalized in Indonesia Measles Outbreak	10
28 Residents Monitored for Tuberculosis in Tondo, Philippines	10
China to Combat Growing Outbreak of Schistosomiasis	11
Mystery Disease Toll in Uttar Pradesh Rises to 98	11
Philippines: Gastroenteritis Outbreak in Pangasinan.....	11
Project to Detect Disease Outbreak Launched	11

USSOUTHCOM..... 12

HOT TOPICS

Magnetic System Navigates Difficult Blood Vessels

8 November – Health Day News reported that a new magnetic system that's able to navigate difficult blood vessels shows promise for use during percutaneous coronary interventions (PCIs) such as angioplasty in patients with [cardiovascular disease](#). "The computer-controlled magnetic system is useful to steer guide wires and navigate turns in tortuous coronary arteries that would otherwise be impossible to negotiate," study co-author Dr. Neal S. Kleiman said in a prepared statement. The study found a high success rate among 26 patients who underwent 31 magnetic-assisted interventions (MAIs). The system, which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2003, has two magnets that generate a magnetic field over the heart and a magnet-tipped coronary guide wire. The external magnetic field is used to help direct the magnet-tipped guide wire. This magnetic navigation system has the potential to enable doctors to perform coronary interventions more rapidly than when using conventional guide wire techniques, Kleiman said. [View Article](#)

Mouse Study Sheds Light on Nicotine's Addictive Power

5 November – Scientific American reported that [nicotine addiction](#) is a leading cause of preventable mortality worldwide. But nicotine's highly addictive nature makes kicking the smoking habit very difficult. Brain receptors in mice may help explain why it's so hard to quit. Receptors embedded in the surface of neurons allow compounds such as nicotine to act on brain cells. Researchers had previously identified so-called nicotinic acetylcholine receptors as important in cigarette addiction. Researchers created genetically engineered mice that had alterations in these receptors. They found that animals with a mutation in the "alpha4" subsection were particularly sensitive to nicotine's effects. Mice with the alpha4 mutation showed signs of addiction at lower doses than did normal mice and, once exposed to the chemical, the altered neurons responded more strongly to large doses of it than regular neurons did. The new findings offer insight into how the chemical exerts its addictive power, but the mechanism of how nicotine binds to the receptors remains unclear. [View Article](#)

New Bacteria Threaten Public Health

9 November – ABC News reported that many young athletes are being felled by a deadly bacterium, MRSA, that is sweeping the US and Europe. Medical experts are alarmed that [MRSA](#), or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is just one of several deadly new strains of bacteria that are becoming resistant to modern antibiotics. A strain of [tuberculosis](#) has developed a resistance to most drug therapies and is now known as MDR-TB, or multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. Some strains of staph have developed a level of resistance to the powerful antibiotic vancomycin, once the last defense against the bacteria. But after use of vancomycin became widespread, the staph bacteria mutated to a strain named [VRSA](#), or vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. [VRE](#), or vancomycin-resistant enterococci, a bacteria that infects the urinary tract, wounds and other areas, has also grown resistant to the antibiotic. Joshua Lederberg, a Nobel Prize-winning geneticist, wrote that the ease of international travel, human encroachment into wilderness areas and urban crowding will continue to provide opportunities for the spread of infectious diseases. And microbes have been around for 3.5 billion years (compared to a mere 4.5 million years of human evolution). [View Article](#)

One Shot Eases Pain after Surgery

29 October – Health Day News reported that a single-dose epidural injection called DepoDur is safe and effective in treating postoperative pain, according to two clinical trials. One trial included 487 people undergoing abdominal surgery and the other trial included 164 people undergoing knee-replacement surgery. The studies concluded that a single shot of the morphine sulfate drug can provide effective pain relief for 48 hours when given before or during surgery. DepoDur was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration earlier this year and will be commercially available by the end of the year. [View Article](#)

Pollution Link to Heart Disease

8 November – BBC News reported that air pollution caused by traffic and factories may cause [heart disease](#). Researchers found that pollution seemed to cause the narrowing of arteries - an early stage of heart disease - in a similar way to smoking. Atherosclerosis, the build-up of fatty materials in the arteries which reduces blood flow, is already linked to smoking, diabetes and obesity. The researchers looked at levels of pollution in the areas where study participants lived. The pollution causes the body to produce oxidants which in turn trigger inflammatory reactions in both the respiratory tract and blood vessels, triggering artery damage. The researchers found that for every 10ug/m³ increase in pollution, the thickness of the lining of the neck artery increased by 5.9%. After the team adjusted for factors such as age and lifestyle, artery thickness increased by between 3.9% and 4.3% for every 10ug/m³ increase in PM_{2.5}. The strongest link was seen in women over the age of 60. [View Article](#)

Red, Processed Meats Increase Diabetes Risk

8 November – Yahoo News reported that red meats and processed meats such as hot dogs appear to increase the risk of [diabetes](#), as does a heavily "Western" diet. US investigators found that people who ate mostly Western foods - including sweets, French fries, refined grains such as white bread, and red and processed meats - were nearly 50 percent more likely to develop diabetes over a 14-year period than people who ate minimal amounts of Western-type foods. Breaking down the diet into its parts, the researchers found that each additional daily serving of red meat increased a person's risk of diabetes by 26 percent; adding another serving of processed meat upped their chances of the disease by nearly 40 percent. When many processed and red meats and other high fat foods are cooked at high temperatures, they form substances that appear to help trigger the development of diabetes. The

study focused on type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the condition that is associated with obesity. [View Article](#)

Syndrome Predicts Heart Disease in Healthy Adults

8 November – Reuters reported that middle-aged adults who do not yet have heart disease but have a spectrum of symptoms called [metabolic syndrome](#) are very likely to also have clogged arteries. Metabolic syndrome is defined as having three of five risk factors -- a top blood pressure reading of more than 130, a blood glucose level of 120 or more, high triglyceride levels, low levels of high density lipoprotein or "good" cholesterol, and a large waist. Some 27 percent of the U.S. population have metabolic syndrome. Researchers studied 246 adults with an average age of 53 who had no obvious symptoms of heart disease and low risk of heart disease. Of the people they studied, 75 had metabolic syndrome. Of these 75 people, 75 percent also had the beginnings of a clogged carotid artery, the team found. [View Article](#)

WHO Sends Malaria Drug Warning

9 November – BBC News reported that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is warning that some countries are likely to face a shortage of malaria drugs because of a sharp increase in demand. The medicines - derived from a Chinese herb - are used to treat the deadliest form of the disease. The WHO says 40 countries that now use artemisinin derived drugs as first-line malaria treatment could be affected until March next year. The problem lies with the raw material - it takes six months to grow the herb plant which produces artemisinin and another three to five months to process it. In 2001, when this type of treatment was approved, just over 200,000 treatments were ordered at the time. But now 10 million courses are wanted and by next year this is expected to rise to over 60 million. Novartis - the drug company who makes it - says Chinese suppliers cannot keep up with demand. [View Article](#)

Focus on Epidemiology

Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage in the US, 2003

5 November – MMWR reported that vaccination of persons at risk for complications from influenza and pneumococcal disease is a key public health strategy for preventing associated morbidity and mortality in the United States. Risk factors include older age and medical conditions that increase the risk for complications from infections. National health objectives for 2010 call for 90% influenza and pneumococcal vaccination coverage among noninstitutionalized persons aged ≥ 65 years and 60% coverage among noninstitutionalized persons aged 18--64 years who have risk factors (e.g., diabetes or asthma) for complications from infections. Coverage was below levels targeted in the national health objectives three categories: 1) influenza vaccination levels among adults aged 18--64 with diabetes or asthma, 2) pneumococcal vaccination levels among adults aged 18--64 years with diabetes, and 3) influenza and pneumococcal vaccination levels among adults aged ≥ 65 years. [View Report](#)

Other timely information can be found in:

The [DOD Global Emerging Infections System](#) website.

The current issue of the Army Medical Surveillance Activity's [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)
This week's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

USCENTCOM

Kyrgyzstan: Hepatitis A Outbreak in Bishkek and Osh

5 November – ProMED reported that a 3-fold increase in the incidence of [hepatitis A](#) has been recorded in Bishkek beginning in October 2004. Some 97 cases were registered in Bishkek alone during the past week. Health officials are predicting a further increase. Hepatitis A is also seriously affecting the southern part of Kyrgyzstan in the Osh region. The number of hepatitis A cases registered between August and November 2004 has reached 1874; of whom, 1593 (or 85 percent of the cases) are children under the age of 14 years. According to epidemiologists, the peak of the seasonal rise in hepatitis A coincides with long-term trends. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Cambridge Students Hit by Mumps Outbreak

10 November – Scotsman.com reported that students at Cambridge are among the latest to be hit by a mumps epidemic sweeping universities. University officials said 38 students had been diagnosed with the disease since the autumn term began. Students under the age of 25 were being offered vaccinations, said a spokeswoman. Affected colleges included Jesus, Emmanuel, Pembroke, St Catharine's, Peterhouse, Corpus Christi, Churchill and Trinity Hall. Experts believe that around 3,000 students and young people – born before an infant MMR vaccine program began – could be infected with the virus by the end of the year if trends continue. [View Article](#)

Cholera Kills 1,663 in Africa So Far This Year

3 November – Yahoo! News reported that [cholera](#) outbreaks have hit three more African countries, bringing the number of people killed by the disease across the continent this year to 1,663. Some 71,600 cases have been reported in Africa since January and Cameroon, Chad and Mali have been particularly badly affected, according to Claire-Lise Chaignat, coordinator of the World Health Organization's global cholera task force. In 2003, there were 108,000 cases and 1,884 deaths, she said. Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Uganda are the latest countries to succumb to the disease. Africa had been free of cholera, an intestinal infection spread by contaminated water and food, for more than a century when the disease hit western regions in 1970. [View Article](#)

GPs Run Short Of Flu Shots

5 November – This is London reported that doctors face a worrying shortage in the [flu vaccine](#) this winter. Despite repeated assurances, some GPs are canceling appointments because of dwindling supplies. One practice in Surrey says it has been forced to write 700 letters to patients informing them of the problem and asking them not to make new appointments. Another in Hillingdon had to hunt around for new stocks when a supplier cancelled deliveries. This comes after UK-based manufacturer Chiron Vaccines had its license withdrawn. Of the 14 million doses of flu vaccine ordered by the Department of Health, Chiron had been due to supply 2.4 million. Other firms were brought in in a bid to supply all surgeries by mid-November. [View Article](#)

Ireland First Homegrown Case of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

10 November – The Canadian Press reported that Ireland has suffered its first homegrown case of the [variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease](#) (vCJD), a fatal condition. Ireland's health department confirmed that the victim, a man in his early 20s, has never received or donated blood, and has lived his entire life in Ireland. The fatal brain-wasting disease is believed to come from eating beef products from cows struck with mad cow disease, which is formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE. A positive diagnosis of vCJD often does not occur until the patient dies and can be autopsied. But the Irish Times reported Wednesday that a biopsy of one of the patient's tonsils has detected the rogue protein prion in the tissue. [View Article](#)

Mumps Outbreak Hits Three Colleges

9 November – Ireland On-Line reported that the National Disease Surveillance Centre is investigating an outbreak of the mumps at three colleges in Westmeath, Donegal and Kildare. Around 75 cases of the viral infection have been reported in Athlone Institute of Technology, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and St Patrick's College in Maynooth. This is more than double the total number of mumps cases reported for this time last year. [View Article](#)

Namibia: Meningitis Outbreak in Kavango, Ohangwena

3 November – AllAfrica.com reported that at least 22 people have been admitted to hospital at Rundu and Engela in the Ohangwena Region since the beginning of October, suffering from [meningitis](#). Under Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Dr. Norbert Forster, said that 17 confirmed cases of meningitis were reported at Rundu, while three were reported in Engela District of the Ohangwena Region. Of the five people admitted to hospital at Engela, three were confirmed to be suffering from meningitis. No one has died of the disease, Forster said. Most of the patients hospitalized had already been discharged, said Forster. The outbreak of meningitis has prompted the Ministry of Health to carry out vaccination campaigns in the said regions. [View Article](#)

Namibia-Zambia: Efforts to Contain Locust Outbreak Ineffective

9 November – Reuters AlertNet reported that efforts by Namibia and neighboring Zambia to contain a locust outbreak have proven ineffective, according to a Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report. FEWS NET called for better cooperation between the two countries to counter the threat posed to crops. The Namibian Ministry of Agriculture Water and Rural Development (MAWRD) has been attempting to spray the locusts, which have already reached swarming stage. Namibian authorities are constrained by the fact that the country is not a member of the International Red Locust Control Organisation (IRLO), which offers access to expertise and resources to tackle infestations, Kahijoro Kahuure, the permanent secretary of MAWRD, told IRIN. The network has called on the IRLO to resolve the issue of Namibian membership and come up with a cost structure and insecticides for spraying operations in both Namibia and Zambia. [View Article](#)

Netherlands: Feed Contaminated with Dioxin

6 November – ProMED reported that over 160 dairy and livestock farms in Holland have been temporarily shut down, following the discovery of [dioxin](#) contamination in some of the feed given to the animals. In October 2004, routine sampling of Dutch milk picked up unacceptably high levels of dioxins. An investigation by the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority soon traced this back to a dairy farm in Lelystad, which was immediately isolated. The source of contamination was potato peelings from a potato processing plant. The peelings had been contaminated by marly clay used in

the washing and sorting process and sold to various livestock farms. Some 162 pig, cattle, sheep, and goat farms in Holland have also been temporarily closed. [View Article](#)

'Staggering' Death Rates in Uganda Camps

8 November – BBC News reported that the international medical relief organization, Medecins sans Frontieres, has called for urgent action in northern Uganda. Over 1.6 million people have been displaced by conflict and live in squalid conditions where mortality rates are high. MSF has found what it describes as staggering death rates in the camps for the displaced with people dying from preventable diseases; malaria, respiratory disease and diarrhea. MSF says the population is extremely vulnerable due to insufficient food, access to water and the presence of endemic malaria. It says the most alarming mortality rates are for children under the age of 5. MSF research in six refugee camps in Lira and Pader districts found a crude mortality rate of 2.8 deaths per 10,000 people per day. "The mortality rate was even more alarming among children under five years of age, at 5.4 deaths per 10,000 children a day, with the rate as high as 10.5 deaths per 10,000 children a day in one location," MSF said. [View Article](#)

Uganda: Cholera Overwhelms Kilembe Hospital

4 November – AllAfrica.com reported that Kilembe Hospital in Kasese district does not have enough personnel to handle both routine work and [cholera](#), which hit the district on Saturday. The medical superintendent, Dr. Julius Bamwine, on Monday said the number of cholera patients had increased from 26 on Sunday to 35, with one death reported. "All cases are from Nyakasanga parish of Kasese town council and politicians must come in to save the situation. We have not received any reinforcement in terms of personnel at all," he said. Nyakasanga is the most populated area of Kasese town. The patients were being treated under a tent, which could not accommodate all the patients. Some of the patients were lying outside the tent but within the quarantine area. [View Article](#)

Uganda Battles Deadly Anthrax Outbreak

4 November – SciDev.Net reported that a lack of technical capacity in Uganda is thwarting efforts to protect local communities and their livestock from an outbreak of [anthrax](#) that is reported to have claimed at least 12 lives. Nicholas Kauta, commissioner for livestock health and entomology in Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, says poor disaster preparedness and a lack of scientific and technological capacity in relevant government departments are now hindering efforts to curb the bacterium's spread into neighboring communities and their 200,000 cattle. Authorities have begun the task of disposing of dead wildlife and warning communities of the anthrax threat. By end of October, 69 hippopotamus carcasses had been buried in three meter deep graves while buffalo and warthog carcasses were burnt to ashes with diesel and firewood, to ensure the anthrax bacterium was completely destroyed. Recently, two human deaths have resulted from villagers eating infected hippopotamus meat, a local delicacy reputed to boost women's fertility. [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

Avian Cholera Outbreak Kills Thousands of Birds on Great Salt Lake

5 November – KUTV.com reported that [avian cholera](#) is killing thousands of birds on Great Salt Lake.

State wildlife officials say the outbreak is among the biggest in years. The disease is lethal to waterfowl and other water birds, but does not affect humans. About 30,000 eared grebes have died on the lake in the latest outbreak. Each fall, about 1.5 million of the small diving birds settle on the lake for refueling before continuing their travel south. The lake gives the birds enough food for them to double their weight before they head on to the southwest and into Mexico. Avian cholera is one of the most common diseases among wild North American waterfowl. Once birds are infected, they die quickly -- sometimes within six to 12 hours. [View Article](#)

Canadian Officials Purchase 145,000 Extra Flu Shots

6 November – Canoe reported that Canadian health authorities have purchased an extra 145,000 doses of [flu vaccine](#) and are negotiating with a foreign supplier to import more if this season's high demand threatens to outstrip supplies. Although the country's chief medical officer suggests it's unlikely the currently unlicensed foreign vaccine could be imported in time for this flu season, his British Columbia counterpart said he anticipates needing some of it. Dr. Perry Kendall said British Columbia has distributed 25 per cent more flu vaccine this year than ever before. Supplies were running so short that yesterday he asked all but the highest-risk people to step to the back of the line to ensure that those who need a shot most get one. Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones, would not disclose details of the discussions with the foreign vaccine maker. "We're just having conversations and continuing to assess what the provincial/territorial needs are going to be. And if it looks like we're going to need it, then we could look at figuring out the licensing," he said in an interview. [View Article](#)

Class Action Suit Filed Against Caesars Entertainment for Norovirus Outbreak

4 November – eMediaWire reported that a class action lawsuit was filed by Marler Clark against Caesars Entertainment, owners of the Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel at the center of a [Norovirus](#) outbreak that has sickened hundreds. Attorneys for the plaintiffs contend that, even after it learned of the outbreak, the Flamingo Hotel failed to take reasonable measures to prevent the further spread of illness among its patrons and guests. Recent accounts from guests seem to corroborate the theory. Guests say they saw no warning signs about the outbreak in the bedrooms, restaurants, or elsewhere, and the front desk did not warn them when they checked into the hotel. William Marler, attorney for the plaintiffs said, "Two-thirds of the people who became ill were hotel workers. That suggests to me that the Flamingo did not have a policy for keeping ill workers at home." [View Article](#)

Doctor Accused of Giving Expired Flu Shots

6 November – The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that a Bellingham, Washington doctor has been accused of giving expired [flu shots](#) to 55 patients this fall. Dr. Gary McCallum gave the patients flu shots from a batch of last year's vaccine, said the state's Medical Quality Assurance Commission, which licenses the state's physicians and other medical professionals. The board charged him with unprofessional conduct, specifically fraud and misrepresentation. McCallum told patients the vaccine, purchased last year in Canada, was good for the current flu season, though it had expired in July. McCallum said that all the patients were getting new shots and that he could not comment further. Health Department investigators paid an unannounced visit to McCallum's Bellingham practice Wednesday after receiving an anonymous tip. [View Article](#)

Flu Remedy Sales Watched to Spot Outbreaks

7 November – The Miami Herald reported that sales of over-the-counter drugs to treat the [flu](#) may help the government more quickly spot local outbreaks. The government now receives figures

representing 80 percent of sales of remedies for cold symptoms and diarrhea, for example, in an effort to spot disease trends. A sudden spike in sales of those products "might be a hint that flu is emerging," the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Julie Gerberding said. This year's flu season appears to be starting slowly, Gerberding said. Twenty-eight states are reporting cases, including Texas and two New York nursing homes. Neither is reporting widespread flu activity. None of the remaining states or the District of Columbia, however, have recorded a single flu case. [View Article](#) (registration required)

HHS to Spend \$877 Million on New Anthrax Vaccine

4 November - CIDRAP News reported that Federal health officials today announced the award of an \$877 million contract for 75 million doses of a new [anthrax](#) vaccine to protect the public and improve on the existing vaccine used by the military. VaxGen Inc. won the contract to produce and deliver the new vaccine within 3 years. The hope is that the vaccine will provide protection with three doses, so that 75 million doses would be enough for 25 million people. The existing vaccine used by the Department of Defense requires six doses over 18 months, followed by annual boosters. The vaccine will go into the Strategic National Stockpile and be reserved for emergency use. [View Article](#)

No Link Found Yet in Outbreak of Illness

3 November - The Birmingham News reported that a rash of children have become sick since early October with an illness that can lead to kidney failure and is usually caused by [E. coli](#) infection. Children's Hospital has treated seven children since 8 October for hemolytic-uremic syndrome, four of whom have needed dialysis because of kidney problems. Three of the patients have had confirmed *E. coli* infections, and the bacteria is by far the most likely culprit in the other cases, said Dr. Mark Benfield, a kidney specialist at Children's. State and county health department officials are investigating the cases, but so far there's been no link beyond two brothers who both became ill. The patients are all from outside the Birmingham area. [View Article](#)

North Carolina *E. coli* Outbreak Grows

7 November – CNN.com reported that an outbreak of [E. coli](#) infections linked to last month's state fair may be larger than previously thought. The number of confirmed infections grew to 31, and the state Department of Health and Human Services was investigating 103 more cases. A department spokesman attributed the additional reports to heightened awareness among doctors and the public. The most common link among victims is that some visited a petting zoo at the fair. Many children were infected, including three who developed a serious complication that can cause kidney failure. [View Article](#)

USDA Funds Avian Flu Vaccine Bank for Poultry

5 November - CIDRAP News reported that an Iowa company will develop an [avian influenza](#) vaccine antigen bank that could produce up to 40 million doses of vaccine for poultry, the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced. APHIS's Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) has awarded a 5-year contract to Fort Dodge Animal Health to manufacture and store killed, frozen bulk viral antigens that can be used to produce vaccine for the H5N2, H5N9, H7N2, and H7N3 subtypes of avian flu. The antigen bank will speed production of poultry vaccine if it is needed. The bank is scheduled to be fully stocked by January 2005. [View Article](#)

US Health Report Card Offers Mixed Grades

8 November – ABC News reported that a state-by-state review of the nation's health shows that progress has stalled on the key issues of obesity and infant mortality. The 15th annual report, ["America's Health: State Health Rankings"](#) shows the US has become 17 percent healthier since 1990, but that improvements have leveled off since the year 2000. Obesity has jumped 97 percent in the past 15 years. Nearly 23 percent of the population has a body mass index that indicates they are 30 or more pounds over a healthy weight. The survey also found a slight rise in the infant mortality rate among US newborns — a first in the US in 40 years. Those states ranked healthiest in this year's report card were Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The least healthy states were Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. [View Article](#)

Virus Outbreak Sickens 140 in Calgary Shelter

8 November - CTV.ca reported that a Calgary social service agency's facility has become the scene of a mysterious illness outbreak. The Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre saw about 200 homeless people sickened by the outbreak on Sunday. They experienced nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. This led to the building being locked down, keeping about 300 other people inside. Public health officials were called in to investigate and stop the illness's spread, while police were called in to help calm some angry people. "We do know that in the community right now there is a lot of Norwalk virus," said Dr. Judy MacDonald, deputy medical officer of health for the Calgary Health Region. [View Article](#)

Wisconsin Drops Flu Shot Purchase

5 November – The Chicago Tribune reported that Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced that Wisconsin won't be taking advantage of his plan to buy [flu vaccine](#) from abroad but said New Mexico has now paired with Illinois. All told, Illinois and New Mexico have contracted to buy about 450,000 doses of the vaccine. About one-third of that supply will go to New Mexico, Blagojevich said. Wisconsin determined it did not need Illinois' help because it has been promised a supply from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that will provide enough vaccine for people in high-risk categories. Blagojevich said of the Food and Drug Administration, "They've told us that they'll inspect the Aventis plant in France as soon as they finish inspecting the manufacturing and clinical records that they needed. They've also said they could have inspectors on a plane to France the minute they finish reviewing the records." [View Article](#) (registration required)

USPACOM

26 Children Die, 227 Hospitalized in Indonesia Measles Outbreak

3 November – Japan Today reported that at least 26 children, all of them under 5 years old, have died, while 227 others have been hospitalized after a virulent [measles](#) outbreak hit an eastern Indonesian island last month. Local Health Agency Chief Paul Manoumpil said the measles outbreak has affected the villages of East Mataru, Kamafui, South Mataru, and Taman Mataru on the island of Alor in East Nusa Tenggara Province. [View Article](#)

28 Residents Monitored for Tuberculosis in Tondo, Philippines

6 November – The Asia-Pacific Disease Outbreak/Surveillance Report stated that 28 residents of Tondo, Manila are being monitored for [tuberculosis](#) (TB), a disease that kills approximately 75 Filipinos daily. TB is common in urban poor areas. The 28 patients are beneficiaries of the "Tutok Gamutan" project of the DOH, city government of Manila and other organizations. Under the program, the patients are being closely observed while they undergo the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy recommended by the World Health Organization. The DOTS requires TB patients to religiously take their medicine for six months. Most TB victims in Tondo suffer in silence because of lack of money to buy medicine and the stigma associated with the disease. The program seeks to make others willingly come forward and be screened for TB after being educated about the illness. [View Article](#)

China to Combat Growing Outbreak of Schistosomiasis

8 November – The Hindustan Times reported that China has launched a plan to control a growing outbreak of [schistosomiasis](#) by 2008. The ministry of health wants to reduce infection rates in human beings to five per cent and three percent in animals. In regions such as eastern China's Jiangsu and the central provinces of Hunan and Hubei, infection rates have soared to upwards of 80 to 90 percent of the population living near lakes and rivers. Schistosomiasis was effectively controlled in China in the 1980s but has made a comeback in the past two decades. The disease, in which the schistosomiasis parasite hosts in snails, is mainly contracted through contaminated water. With many farmers and fisherman working in and around infected waters, the disease is spreading easily. [View Article](#)

Mystery Disease Toll in Uttar Pradesh Rises to 98

7 November – ProMED reported that six more lives were claimed by the mystery disease stalking western Uttar Pradesh, taking the death toll to 98 today (30 Oct 2004). The worst-affected district of Sahranpur, where the disease is afflicting children, had 50 deaths. All six deaths took place in Nangal town of the Sahranpur district. Two of them died in the hospital. The number of ailing children is on the rise. The disease has so far claimed 14 lives in Bhagpat. All cases appeared to be of viral encephalitis, as the brains of the children had been affected. [View Article](#)

Philippines: Gastroenteritis Outbreak in Pangasinan

6 November – The Asia-Pacific Disease Outbreak/Surveillance Report stated that the 5-month outbreak of acute [gastroenteritis](#) in Pangasinan (on the island of Luzon) from May to October this year was the longest outbreak since the cholera outbreak in 1948. Records from the Department of Health indicated 8,819 acute gastroenteritis cases from May 28 to October 22, of which 464 were confirmed to be cholera cases. Fifty-five people died. The *Vibrio cholerae* virus may have been spawned by intake of contaminated water drawn from wells near septic tanks. The epidemic has not stopped, but has taken a downward trend. It is expected to resurge again in the next rainy season. [View Article](#)

Project to Detect Disease Outbreak Launched

8 November – The Hindu reported that the Indian Government launched a project aimed at detecting disease outbreak in the country well in advance. "The Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) launched today would help notify the Centre and state within six hours if a death occurs due to some disease and so detect disease outbreak well in advance," Union Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss said. "It would help study the disease patterns in the country and identify emerging diseases," he said. The project, expected to provide essential data to monitor progress of on-going disease control programmes, would also help allocate health resources more optimally, he added. Under the project

each district of the country would have a well equipped lab with trained personnel and advanced communication facilities. [View Article](#)

USSOUTHCOM

No articles of note.

Please contact us to comment on or suggest improvements to this report.

Eileen Resta
eileen.resta@amedd.army.mil

Tyson Grier
tyson.grier@amedd.army.mil

Approved:
[Kevin Delaney](#)
Chief, Health Information Operations
(410) 436-5217 or DSN 584-5217